



SENATOR RICARDO LARA

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014



The 2014-2015 Young Senators visit the California State Senate Chambers where they heard from multiple legislators about the importance of civic engagement.

YOUNG SENATORS VISIT CAPITOL, BERKELEY AND SILICON VALLEY

Designed to provide high school students with unique opportunities that yield insights about potential career and educational paths, last month, the Young Senators visited Sacramento and the Silicon Valley to learn about government and the state's booming tech industry.

The Young Senators participated in a mock government and legislative process session where they ran a committee hearing and debated legislation currently being considered in the legislature.

Students met with state legislators, toured the State Capitol and visited my office and staff. They concluded the tour by visiting the Senate Chambers where I discussed the importance of civic engagement. Several legislators from both houses stopped by to greet the Young Senators and discuss their experiences in public service.

The Young Senators then took to the road and traveled to UC Berkeley, one of our state's premiere public universities to learn about college opportunities.

They continued their educational excursion to the Silicon Valley for an Information Technology Session where students toured the headquarters of Facebook and Google. The companies hosted a panel presentation for the students, underscoring the types of jobs and opportunities available at technology companies.

To wrap up the year of activities, the concluding session will be based on Agriculture and will take place in California's Central Valley.

I continue to be impressed with the intellect and drive of this year's Young Senators!

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2014

Women of Distinction Honorees

- > Idonia Ramos- Bell
- > Martha Cabral- Bell Gardens
- > Silvia Casas- Cudahy
- > Stephanie Smiley-Florence
- > Victoria Herrera - Huntington Park
- > Requeta "Ricky" Campbell
- > Jane Weyman- Lynwood
- > Kathleen Irvine- Long Beach
- > Renee Quarles- Long Beach
- > Dr. Zulmara Cline - Long Beach
- > Inez Gutierrez - Long Beach
- > Doreen Matsumoto- Long Beach
- > Chan Hopson - Long Beach
- > Maria Norvell - Long Beach>
- > Natalie Gutenkauf- Long Beach
- > Ingrid Villeda - Long Beach
- > Maria Mariscal - Maywood
- > Maricela Parga - Paramount
- > Judie Jacobus - Signal Hill
- > Lindsay Cox - South Gate
- > Juliet Goff - Vernon

Elinor Otto of Long Beach, an original "Rosie the Riveter" recognized as the 33rd Senate District's Woman of the Year.

94 YEAR OLD "ROSIE" ONE OF 24 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDEES

Each year I have the opportunity to recognize 24 outstanding women making significant impacts in communities throughout the 33rd Senate District at my Women of Distinction Award Ceremony.

In addition to recognizing the 24 women with distinction awards, I also give special awards to three honorees whose experiences and leadership stand out.

The "Woman of the Year" award went to Elinor Otto of Long Beach. She is an original "Rosie the Riveter" who began installing rivets on cargo planes during World War II and to this day works on a Boeing airplane assembly line at the age of 94. Brenda Pantoja from Bell Gardens received the "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" award for her achievements in Basketball and WNBA officiating, and twelve year old Natali Cabrera received the "Young Leader" award for her leadership in being elected to her local neighborhood council.

From twelve to ninety-four, the women honored in the 33rd Senate District are model citizens and valuable assets to their communities.

Their leadership and hard work stand as examples for future generations and I would like to thank each of them for their commitment to improving the quality of life in our communities.



CELEBRATING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE IN LONG BEACH AND THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

Since June 2009, the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and the LGBT community as a whole, have been officially recognized by a presidential proclamation. This month-long observance of LGBT history and gay pride has gained momentum with various pride parades, parties and workshops held in numerous cities throughout the country. One of the state's largest Pride celebrations happens right here in the 33rd Senate District: Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride!

History

It was in June 29, 1969 that a heated riot by members and supporters of the LGBT community occurred when police raided The Stonewall Inn, "a gay bar," in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. The riot, and its aftermath, is regarded as the single most important event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for gay and lesbian rights in the country.

Commemoration

The California LGBT Caucus honored leaders from the LGBT community on June 23 during Assembly Floor Session. In addition, Chair of the LGBT Caucus Assemblymember Richard Gordon and Senator Mark Leno will introduce Assembly and Senate floor resolutions. I was proud to honor Jewels and Azature for serving as role models to LGBT youth in the 33rd District and Greater Los Angeles area.

Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival

Over the past several years, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration has become one of the premiere Pride events nationwide now attracting over 80,000 participants over two days. This year, I was proud to participate in celebrating Long Beach's LGBT community during the parade, joined by community leaders and activists.

This month also marks the one year anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision dismissing Proposition 8 on standing, effectively returning the freedom to marry to the Golden State. That same day, the Supreme Court also ruled that the so called "Defense of Marriage Act" was deemed unconstitutional.

As the first openly gay person of color elected to the California State Senate and a proud member of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus, I was proud to join constituents from Long Beach and throughout the 33rd Senate Districts in celebrating LGBT pride!



SEN. RICARDO LARA WORKING HARD FOR DISTRICT 33



TIPS TO CONSERVE H2O

- > Never use lawn mowers in dry vegetation.
- > Ensure that your campfires are properly extinguished.
- > Residents should make sure they have 100 feet of defensible space around structures.
- > Never pull over a vehicle in dry grass.
- > Ensure vehicle trailer chains don't drag on the ground.
- > Have proper tire pressure to avoid driving on the wheel's rim.
- > Make sure cigarette butts are properly extinguished.
- > Never burn landscape debris like leaves or branches on "No Burn Days" or when it's windy or in areas where it is not allowed.
- > Report any suspicious activities to prevent arson.

DOING YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER DURING THE DROUGHT



The scarcity of water in our state has increased our susceptibility to fires which, once started, require valuable resources to control and overcome.

Because of the dry conditions, the National Weather Service issued Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches throughout California. State fire crews this year have battled over 1,300 fires since January 1, more than double the year-to-date average of 711 fires.

The issue is not only danger but also cost. Water used to fight fires is water that can no longer be available to California's Farmers or to municipal water districts for urban use. A study on the economic impact of this year's drought estimates the loss to irrigated farm communities to be as high as \$1.7 billion in lost revenue and more than 14,500 part-time or full-time jobs in the coming farm seasons.

The Governor's recent Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought ordered the Water Board to direct urban water suppliers to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices to keep water prices from increasing. Please read the "Tips to Conserve H2O" to the left to find out how you can do your part to conserve water during the drought.



LEGISLATURE DELIVERS ON-TIME BALANCED 2014 BUDGET

The state legislature finalized its fourth consecutive on-time budget this month. The finalized plan appropriates \$156.4 billion, with \$108 billion of General Fund spending. It remains balanced through the five-year forecast period of 2019. It is the sixth and final budget negotiated under the leadership of Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg.

Fiscally Responsible

The 2014-15 budget focuses on long-term fiscal stability, with \$10.4 billion in debt repayments and \$2.1 billion towards a Rainy Day reserve fund. For the first time ever, the budget includes a long-term plan to begin paying down \$74 billion in unfunded liabilities at the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS).

Investments in Children and Education
With an eye on California's future, the budget also prioritizes significant public investment in children and education. These investments include the Fair Start pre-school plan, as well as a second round of funding towards the Career Pathways Trust.

The Fair Start plan receives \$264 million in the 2014-15 budget year, increasing quality in existing early childhood education programs. At full implementation, Fair Start will offer 234,000 low-income 4-year-olds – nearly half of all 4-year-olds in California – access to high-quality pre-kindergarten. Low income 4-year-old children with at least one working parent will also be eligible for a full-day pre-kindergarten program. At least 77,000 are

expected to take advantage of the full-day opportunity.

For the second year in a row, the budget directs \$250 million in funding for the Career Pathways Trust program, allowing more California students the opportunity to apply classroom academics to specific careers of interest. More than 120 school districts, charter schools, county education offices and community colleges submitted grant applications for last year's program, with the Department of Education awarding final grants to 39 local and regional school consortia around the state.

In higher-education the University of California and California State University systems will receive an extra boost of \$50 million each if the state receives more money from property taxes than expected, plus \$100 million for deferred maintenance projects.

Reducing Greenhouse Gases and Building Sustainable Communities
On the environmental front, the budget features a deal struck between legislative Democrats and the Governor on the appropriation of future Cap and Trade revenues. It furthers California's greenhouse gas reduction goals and creates a permanent source of funding for mass transit and sustainable communities, within a framework that directs 40 percent of future revenues towards programs in natural resources, 35 percent towards mass transit and sustainable communities and 25 percent towards high-speed rail. The investment strategy also offers a catalyst

for job-creation, as California's economy continues its recovery.

Funding Medi-cal Enrollment, Increasing CalWorks and Lowering Recidivism
In concert with the plan outlined by the Governor's proposed budget in January, the final budget includes nearly \$1 billion to cover higher-than-expected Medi-Cal enrollment as a result of the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The administration had projected 10.5 million people would enroll in Medi-Cal in the 2014-15 fiscal year but increased that estimate in May to 11.5 million, or about 30 percent of the state population.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, would like assistance from my office or would simply like more information on legislation I am working on, please feel free to email my office directly. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Visit: <http://sd33.senate.ca.gov/send-e-mail>

